



## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CITY OF ST. MARYS ASKS FOR PUBLIC INPUT ON DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS**

**The City is conducting an open house regarding streetscape improvements in the downtown**

**ST. MARYS, Ga.,** (June 17, 2016) –

As part of the Renaissance Strategic Vision and Planning process, the City of St. Marys contracted with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia to engage the public across St. Marys to help develop a plan that will guide the future of the downtown area. This plan was initiated in the second half of 2015 and finalized earlier this year. During this process, public input was gathered from citizens and compiled into recommendations for a work program for the City. The issue of the downtown streetscape with its wide stretches of asphalt on St. Marys Street was expressed as a poor reflection of the community's sense of place.

In response to the widespread support that was apparent during the visioning process for streetscape improvements, the City engaged the firm Goodwyn Mills and Cawood. The firm is currently in the process of designing streetscape expansion of St. Marys Street between Osborne Street and Wheeler Street. These improvements will include the reduction in the width of asphalt, the addition of greenery, and expansion of the sidewalk on the north side of St. Marys Street. The City would like to solicit public feedback regarding the expansion and potential design at an open house on June 30<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m. at City Hall's Main Street Office. Staff from the City and Goodwyn Mills and Cawood will be on hand to answer any questions. The open house will be a charette based event to solicit feedback on specific elements of the proposed streetscape project.

Becky Myers of the Main Street Office stated, "This charette is a big step in bringing one of the many projects identified in the downtown plan to fruition. It is an exciting opportunity to be planning the change that many citizens identified as a top issue of improving the downtown while maintaining the City's historic character."

Be sure to "Like" the City of St. Marys on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/stmarysga](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysga). For additional information, contact Becky Myers at the Main Street Office at 912-510-4042.

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